

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, I just want to wish you the great success in your performing your duties in this very crucial time in Israel and the Middle East. While I'm wishing you this, I would like very much to ask you, Mr. Prime Minister, to release the Palestinian—

Prime Minister Peres. Be careful with your timing.

Q.—to release the Palestinian prisoners as soon as possible so they will go back to their families and we will really have peace in the region, especially in the Authority. Thank you.

The President. Let me say, first of all, about the elections, I expect them to go forward; I expect them to be successful; I expect them to be held in a way that is generally applauded for their integrity. And I expect to go back to the Middle East at an appropriate time, but I don't have a trip scheduled. I think I'd like it to be in the context of another advance for the cause of peace. And that's where we are.

Prime Minister Peres. Before Christmas, 450 villages in the West Bank and all the major cities, as well as Gaza and Jericho, will be under the rule of the Palestinians for the first time in history. Israel has implemented one of our greatest moral promises: not to rule another people. Believe me, it makes us content and complete by doing so.

Part of the agreement was to release another thousand prisoners before the elections. I hope we shall release a little bit more than that but for the people that have blood stains on their hands. Until now, we kept every promise, every word. We were ahead of time. And I thought the assassination of Prime Minister Rabin puts an extra responsibility upon me to really do everything true to the commitment.

The President. Thank you very much. Thank you.

NOTE: The President's 110th news conference began at 1:14 p.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to King Hussein of Jordan, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria..

Statement on Action To Protect Retirement Plans

December 11, 1995

Hard-working Americans are doing their part to save for the future. Americans who work to support their families and save for retirement should not have to worry that the money they earned won't be there when they need it most.

Today, my administration is taking action to give the Government the tools necessary to assure American workers they can put their 401(k) savings into a system that is as safe as Fort Knox.

Every American should be encouraged to set aside money for their retirement and make investments in their economic future. Our action will assure millions of Americans that they can put their savings and their trust into a financially sound retirement plan. My administration will continue to do its part to stand guard over Americans' retirement funds.

Proclamation 6857—To Modify the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, To Provide Rules of Origin Under the North American Free Trade Agreement for Affected Goods, and for Other Purposes

December 11, 1995

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Section 1205(a) of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 ("the 1988 Act") (19 U.S.C. 3005(a)) directs the United States International Trade Commission ("the Commission") to keep the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States ("HTS") under continuous review and periodically to recommend to the President such modifications in the HTS as the Commission considers necessary or appropriate to accomplish the purposes set forth in that subsection.

2. Section 1206(a) of the 1988 Act (19 U.S.C. 3006(a)) authorizes the President to proclaim modifications to the HTS, based on the recommendations of the Commission

under section 1205 of the 1988 Act (19 U.S.C. 3005), that he determines are in conformity with the obligations of the United States under the International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System ("the Convention") and do not run counter to the national economic interest of the United States.

3. (a) Presidential Proclamation No. 6641 of December 15, 1993, implemented the North American Free Trade Agreement ("the NAFTA") with respect to the United States and, pursuant to sections 201 and 202 of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act ("the NAFTA Implementation Act") (19 U.S.C. 3331 and 3332), incorporated in the HTS the tariff modifications and rules of origin necessary or appropriate to carry out the NAFTA.

(b) Because the substance of the changes to the Convention will be reflected in slightly differing form in the national tariff schedules of the three parties to the NAFTA, the rules of origin and interpretative rules set forth in Appendix 6.A of Annex 300-B, Annex 401, and other annexes to the NAFTA must be modified to ensure that the agreed tariff and certain other treatment accorded under the NAFTA to originating goods will continue to be provided under the tariff categories affected by the modifications to the Convention. The NAFTA parties agreed, on November 6, 1995, to the text of necessary revisions to the NAFTA.

4. Section 202 of the NAFTA Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3332) provides certain rules for determining whether goods imported into the United States originate in the territory of a NAFTA party and thus are eligible for the tariff and other treatment contemplated under the NAFTA. Section 202(q) of the NAFTA Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3332(q)) authorizes the President to proclaim the rules of origin set out in the NAFTA and any additional subordinate tariff categories necessary to carry out the NAFTA Implementation Act consistent with the NAFTA.

5. Pursuant to section 1206(a) of the 1988 Act (19 U.S.C. 3006(a)) and section 202 of the NAFTA Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3332), I have determined (1) that the modifications to the HTS being proclaimed pursu-

ant to section 1206(a) of the 1988 Act are in conformity with the obligations of the United States under the Convention and do not run counter to the national economic interest of the United States; and (2) that the modifications to the HTS being proclaimed pursuant to section 202 of the NAFTA Implementation Act must be incorporated in the HTS in order to ensure that the tariff and certain other treatment accorded under the NAFTA will continue to be given to NAFTA originating goods. The report and lay-over requirements of section 1206(b) of the 1988 Act (19 U.S.C. 3006(b)) and section 202(q)(2) of the NAFTA Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3332(q)) have been complied with.

6. (a) Presidential Proclamation No. 6763 of December 23, 1994, implemented with respect to the United States the trade agreements resulting from the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, entered into pursuant to sections 1102(a) and (e) of the 1988 Act (19 U.S.C. 2902(a) and (e)), including Schedule XX—United States of America, annexed to the Marrakesh Protocol to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 ("Schedule XX"). Certain provisions set forth in annexes to that proclamation contain technical errors in the instructions for implementing particular changes.

(b) Sections 1102(a) and (e) of the 1988 Act (19 U.S.C. 2902(a) and (e)) authorize the President to proclaim such modification or continuance of any existing duty, such continuance of existing duty-free or excise treatment, or such additional duties, as he determines to be required or appropriate to carry out any trade agreements entered into under those sections. Section 111(a) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act ("the URAA") (19 U.S.C. 3521(a)) authorizes the President to proclaim such other modification of any duty, such other staged rate reduction, or such additional duties as the President determines to be necessary or appropriate to carry out Schedule XX. To clarify the intent of the changes previously proclaimed, I have decided that such technical errors should be corrected.

7. Section 604 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended ("the 1974 Act") (19 U.S.C. 2483), authorizes the President to embody

in the HTS the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including but not limited to section 604 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2483), sections 1102, 1205, and 1206 of the 1988 Act (19 U.S.C. 2902, 3005, and 3006), sections 201 and 202 of the NAFTA Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3331 and 3332), and section 111(a) of the URAA (19 U.S.C. 3521(a)), do hereby proclaim:

(1) In order to modify the rules of origin under the NAFTA to reflect the amendments agreed to by the NAFTA parties, and to make certain conforming changes, the general notes to the HTS are modified as set forth in Annex I to this proclamation.

(2) In order to make changes in the HTS to conform it to the Convention or any amendment thereto recommended for adoption, to promote the uniform application of the Convention, to establish additional subordinate tariff categories to carry out modifications to the rules of origin under the NAFTA, and to make technical and conforming changes to existing provisions, the HTS is modified as set forth in Annex II to this proclamation.

(3) In order to provide for the continuation of previously proclaimed staged duty reductions in the Rates of Duty 1—General subcolumn under section 111(a) of the URAA (19 U.S.C. 3521(a)), as provided in Presidential Proclamation No. 6763 of December 23, 1994, for goods in the provisions modified in Annex II to this proclamation that are entered or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption on or after the dates specified in section A of Annex III to this proclamation, the rate of duty in the HTS set forth in the Rates of Duty 1—General subcolumn for each of the HTS subheadings enumerated in section A of Annex III shall be deleted and the rate of duty provided in such section A inserted in lieu thereof.

(4) In order to provide for the continuation of previously proclaimed tariff modifications and staged duty reductions under section 201 of the NAFTA Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3331), as implemented with respect to the United States in Presidential Proclamation No. 6641 of December 15, 1993, for goods of Canada and of Mexico under the terms of general note 12 to the HTS classifiable in the tariff provisions set forth in or affected by Annex II to this proclamation that are entered or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption on or after the dates specified in sections B and C, respectively, of Annex III to this proclamation, the appropriate rate of duty in the HTS set forth in the rates of Duty 1—Special subcolumn followed by the symbol “CA” or “MX”, respectively, for each of the HTS subheadings enumerated in sections B and C of Annex III shall be deleted and the rate of duty provided in such sections inserted in lieu thereof.

(5)(a) In order to make technical corrections to certain provisions of the annexes to Presidential Proclamation No. 6763 of December 23, 1994, such provisions are modified as set forth in Annex IV to this proclamation.

(b) All provisions of previous proclamations and Executive orders inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are hereby superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

(6)(a) The modifications to the HTS made by Annexes I and II to this proclamation shall be effective with respect to goods entered or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption on and after the later of (i) January 1, 1996, or (ii) the date that is 15 days after the date of publication of this proclamation in the *Federal Register*.

(b) The modifications to the HTS made by Annexes III and IV to this proclamation shall be effective with respect to goods entered or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption on and after the dates specified in such annexes to this proclamation for each action specified.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-five, and of the Independence of the

United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 14, 1995]

NOTE: This proclamation and the attached annexes were published in the *Federal Register* on December 15.

**Letter to Senate Democratic Leader
Thomas Daschle on Implementation
of the Balkan Peace Process**

December 11, 1995

Dear Mr. Leader:

Just four weeks ago, the leaders of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia came to Dayton, Ohio, in America's heartland, to negotiate and initial a peace agreement to end the war in Bosnia. There, they made a commitment to peace. They agreed to put down their guns; to preserve Bosnia as a single state; to cooperate with the War Crimes Tribunal and to try to build a peaceful, democratic future for all the people of Bosnia. They asked for NATO and America's help to implement this peace agreement.

On Friday, December 1, the North Atlantic Council approved NATO's operational plan, OPLAN 10405, the Implementation of a Peace Agreement in the Former Yugoslavia. On Saturday, General George Joulwan, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, who will be commanding the NATO operation, briefed me in Germany on the final OPLAN.

Having reviewed the OPLAN, I find the mission is clearly defined with realistic goals that can be achieved in a definite period of time. The risks to our troops have been minimized to the maximum extent possible. American troops will take their orders from the American general who commands NATO. They will be heavily armed and thoroughly trained. In making an overwhelming show of force, they will lessen the need to use force. They will have the authority, as well as the training and the equipment, to respond with decisive force to any threat to their own safety or any violations of the military provisions of the peace agreement. U.S.

and NATO commanders believe the military mission can be accomplished in about a year.

A summary of the OPLAN is attached. Of course, members of my staff and the Administration are available to answer your questions and further brief you on the OPLAN as you require.

I consider the Dayton peace agreement to be a serious commitment by the parties to settle this conflict. In light of that agreement and my approval of the final NATO OPLAN, I would welcome a Congressional expression of support for U.S. participation in a NATO-led Implementation Force in Bosnia. I believe Congressional support for U.S. participation is immensely important to the unity of our purpose and the morale of our troops.

I believe there has been a timely opportunity for the Congress to consider and act upon my request for support since the initialing in Dayton on November 21. As you know, the formal signing of the Peace Agreement will take place in Paris on December 14.

As I informed you earlier, I have authorized the participation of a small number of American troops in a NATO advance mission that will lay the groundwork for IFOR, starting this week. They will establish headquarters and set up the sophisticated communications systems that must be in place before NATO can send in its troops, tanks and trucks to Bosnia.

America has a responsibility to help to turn this moment of hope into an enduring reality. As the leader of NATO—the only institution capable of implementing this peace agreement—the United States has a profound interest in participating in this mission, which will give the people of Bosnia the confidence and support they need to preserve the peace and prevent this dangerous war in the heart of Europe from resuming and spreading. Since taking office, I have refused to send American troops to fight a war in Bosnia, but I believe we must help now to secure this Bosnian peace.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

NOTE: A summary of the operation plan for the implementation of the peace agreement in the former Yugoslavia was attached to the President's letter.